

NATIONAL REGISTER
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name	Frederick W. Stein House
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Other name/site number 005-0260-0017

2. Location

Street & number 324 Santa Fe

☐ not for publication

City or town Atchison

☐ vicinity

State Kansas	Code KS	County Atchison	Code 005	Zip code 66002
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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Lankford SHPO

December 2, 2003

Signature of certifying official/Title
Kansas State Historical Society

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ☐ removed from the National Register
- ☐ other, (explain:)

Frederick W. Stein House

Name of property

Atchison County, KS

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	
	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter Categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stucco

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property Frederick W. Stein Hosue County and State Atchison County, KS

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1948

Significant Dates

1948

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Davidson, George J.

Krider, G. Alden

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ Previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record # _____

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Name of Property Frederick W. Stein HouseCounty and State Atchison Courty, KS**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property Less than one acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	5	3	1	8	1	6	3	4	3	8	1	3	2	5	3
Zone	Easting		Northing													
2																
4																

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared ByName/title Elizabeth A. Lane, Professional Genealogist and Historic ResearcherOrganization E. A. Lane Research ServicesDate February 2003Street & number 841 South Fourth StreetTelephone 913-367-0391City or town AtchisonState KSZip code 66002-2904**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Ownername John F. and Janet L. Settichstreet & number 324 Santa Fetelephone 913-367-9419city or town Atchisonstate KSzip code 66002

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16) U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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The Frederick W. Stein House (c. 1948) is located at 324 Santa Fe Street on a limestone ledge overlooking the historic downtown of Atchison, Atchison County, Kansas (population 10,232). The stately two-story Neo-Classical style house is stucco and sits on a poured concrete foundation. The house is surmounted by a flat-roof with a prominent overhanging cornice. The building maintains a western facade orientation with overall measurements of forty-five feet from north to south and forty-one feet from east to west.

The house designed by Kansas City, Missouri architects, George J. Davidson & G. Alden Krider, emulates Neo-Classical style through its simple, symmetrical design. The entry porch dominates the front facade. Four simple columns support the porch roof. The windows are aligned in symmetrical rows on the front facade. The house's composition and detailing are inventive, and the classical elements are employed simplistically.

Stone retaining walls run along the north and west property lines. The retaining walls date to c. 1880 when a previous house occupied this location. Made of native stone, the retaining walls are course and irregular in shape, color, and texture. A portion of the north wall's integrity is maintained by three cement block reinforcement walls. At the northwest corner, a steep cement stairway with three distinct landings lead to the front entrance. Two large adorning cement urns are passed on the ascent to the porch's north edge. Two duplicate urns are located at the south edge of the porch. The facade emerges as a vertical extension of the western retaining wall. On the south side of the house, remnants of an unidentified structure's native stone foundation with stone reinforcements now serve as walls for an enclosed garden area. An unattached flat-roof, stucco double car garage (c. 1970) is located on the eastern side of the house. The garage doors face south. The garage's ground floor is higher than the ground floor of the house and is recessed back from the southeastern edge of the house. Two sets of cement steps, one on the north side and one on the south side of the garage, lead to the house. By automobile, the garage can only be reached via an alleyway entrance from North Third Street. At the northeast corner of the garage and at its same ground level, a hot tub (c. May, 2001) has been added.

The foundation is poured cement. Tan stucco walls feature walnut window casings that have been painted off-white. The smooth stucco walls have a contrasting wooden band between floors. This band is painted off-white and matches the window casing's color.

The facade faces west and is five bays across. A one story 3/4 width front porch with second story balcony dominates the facade. Originally, a widow's walk adorned the roof. The porch columns are simple round tapering, and the balustrades on both levels are turned spindles.

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The porch columns are salvaged from the original house on this property. The centrally located door is accented by sidelights. The round arch paired oak doors consist of two panels and are lavishly ornate. A decorative relief in each panel adds to the elegant detail. The doors were salvaged from a razed Atchison mansion. Brass light fixtures light the porch and flank the door.

Fenestration is comprised of paired casement windows with fixed transoms on the first floor and paired casement windows on the second floor. The original 1/1 double hung windows were replaced (c. 1981). The transoms on the first floor are original to the structure.

The interior of the house is designed around a center hall plan with simple, yet elegant, details. Carpet covers the walnut hard wood floors on both the first and second floors. The interior window trim on both floors is walnut which has been stained oak. The walls are plaster. A poured concrete basement remains in remarkable condition.

The first floor consists of an expansive living room on the north side of the central foyer. A salvaged oak fireplace mantel with an elegant large-scale mirror has been inset into a unobtrusive projection from the room's east wall. A tile hearth adds to the plans simple elegance. Built-in bookshelves are recessed and flank the fireplace. The south side of the hall is occupied by a small, airy sitting room and the dining room. Bi-fold walnut doors stained oak divide these two rooms. These rooms remain virtually unchanged from the original floor plan. A crawl space under the dining room floor reveals the brick cistern from the original house on this property. Additionally, french doors on the south side of the dining room lead to a sun room. The sun room was enclosed (c. 1981) and two stained glass windows salvaged from a Lancaster, Kansas home were added to the west wall. The kitchen was expanded and a first floor laundry facility addition was made on the northeast corner of the house (c. 1981). The kitchen was again remodeled (c. 1999), and the first floor laundry facility was converted into private quarters and a bath for the innkeepers.

The quarter-turn stairway with landing leads to the second floor. The stairway parts were purchased as a kit from the Goodjohn Sash and Door Company in Leavenworth, Kansas (c. 1948) and assembled at the house. Wedge reinforcement blocks were used between risers.

The four original bedrooms on the second floor remain virtually unchanged from the original floor plan. Two bedrooms flank the central hallway on each side. The original walk-through closets with pocket doors between the rooms were converted to baths (c. 1999). A master bedroom suite, adjoining master bath, and an extensive walk-in closet were added on the

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east end of the second floor (c. 1988-1989). A laundry area was added within the walls of the walk-in closet (c.1999).

Significant plumbing and electrical upgrading was completed (c.1999). Throughout the house, the galvanized steel plumbing pipe was changed to copper. The electrical wiring (c. 1948, 1975, 1981, 1988, 1989) was replaced and substantially upgraded. The two furnaces (c.1970) were replaced. All the wallpaper upstairs, some three layers thick and dating to c. 1948, was removed. The plaster work was repaired throughout the house.

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The Frederick W. Stein House (c. 1948) is being nominated to the National Register under criterion C for its representation as a significant historic architectural resource in the city of Atchison, Atchison County, Kansas. The regal appearance and dignified classical detailing reflect the influence and serve as an excellent example of Neo-Classical style.

The Neo-Classical movement is characterized by grandeur of scale; simplicity of geometric forms; dramatic use of columns; and a preference for undecorated walls. This architectural style was most popular in America from 1895 and 1950 and beyond, based primarily on the use forms of Classical Antiquity. Exhibitions played an important part in the movement. The popularity of the Columbian Exposition at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, where Charles B. Altwood present his Fine Art Building, stimulated and influenced a generation of architects to work in a classical vein. The hallmark of this style is simple, rectangular volumes; symmetrical placement of doors and windows; expansive central porches which incorporate columns (usually in pairs) across the facade and broad expanses of plain wall surface. Additional decoration is found at elaborately detailed doors. Fully realized examples were constructed by the wealthiest homeowners. (McAlester, 342-353)

The two-story Neo-Classical house was designed by Kansas City, Missouri architects, George J. Davidson and G. Alden Krider, for Frederick W. Stein and his wife, Helen Moore Stein, in February, 1948. Stein solicited Davidson to complete the design for his new home after the two had been introduced at a meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. Davidson engaged his associate, G. Alden Krider, to assist in completion of the design. The Neo-Classical design was agreed upon by all parties after Davidson and Krider traveled to Atchison, Kansas in late 1947 for a preliminary site visit. Davidson and Krider first met in the 1930s as architectural students at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. During World War II, Davidson and Krider worked as architects for North American Aviation, Inc. in Kansas City, Missouri and maintained a personal and professional relationship. From 1945 through 1949, Davidson and Krider worked as associates in a shared office space in Kansas City, Missouri; although, a partnership was never formed. A monetary agreement was reached whereas if the primary architect on a job solicited the aid of the associate, the associate was provided with ten percent of the project income. In 1949, Krider left Kansas City, Missouri and returned to Manhattan, Kansas after being offered a teaching position at the School of Architecture at Kansas State University. The Krider Visual Resource Center, in the College of Architectural Planning and Design at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas is named for G. Alden Krider, Professor Emeritus, who taught in the college until 1977. G. Alden Krider currently resides in Manhattan, Kansas. Davidson remained in private practice until the mid-1950s when he began working for the Kansas City, Missouri

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Public Works Department as a building inspector. In 1959, Davidson became the Director of Inspection for the Kansas City, Missouri Board of Education. He remained in that post until his retirement. Davidson has been deceased for sometime.

Frederick W. Stein (1888-1972) and his wife, Helen Moore Stein (1894-1975), lived in the house from December, 1948 until 1972 when failing health forced them into a nursing home. The Stein's only child, Frederick Jr. (1927-1985), lived in the home until his death in 1985. Both Frederick Jr.'s first wife, Evelyn Hazlett (1927-1975), and his second wife, Ruth Martin Soph, resided in the home. After her husband's death, Ruth Martin Soph Stein continued living in the home until 1993 when it was sold to its current owners, John F. and Janet L. Venable Settich. From 1993 until 1999 the home was rented to Benedictine College and served as the president's residence. The Settich's moved into the home in 1999 and converted the home into a bed and breakfast. The Frederick W. Stein home operates as St. Martin's Bed and Breakfast, and the Settich's serve in the capacity of proprietors/innkeepers.

The house was constructed in 1948 for Frederick W. Stein and his wife, Helen Moore Stein (1894-1975). Helen was the daughter of Augustin McAtee "A.M." and Emma Belz Moore. Her grandfather, John Belz, was cashier of the German Savings Bank of Atchison, Kansas and a pioneer resident of the community. Mrs. Stein's father, A. M. Moore was state adjuster of the Shawnee Fire Insurance Company of Topeka. Mrs. Stein lived most of her life at 324 Santa Fe Street in Atchison, Kansas. First in the home built by her grandfather, John Belz, in 1870, and then in the home she and her husband built in 1948. The Stein's razed the 1870 structure in order to build their home at this location. A large amount of lumber from the 1870 structure was reused when building the 1948 home.

F. P. Gehring Company of Atchison, Kansas was the general building contractor. LeRoy Brink served as the superintendent of the job, and William "Bill" Wilson was one the carpenters who worked on the house. Mr. Brink installed the hard wood floors on both floors, and with the assistance of Mr. Wilson completed the stairway and window casings. LeRoy Lancaster completed all the plaster and stucco work on the house. Hayes Plumbing Company and Gerber Electric Company both of Atchison, Kansas were subcontracted by the F. P. Gehring Company to perform the plumbing and electrical installation respectively. The house was constructed in approximately six months time.

Born in Greeleaf, Kansas on June 24, 1888, Frederick William Stein moved to Atchison, Kansas with his parents, George and Philetta Frank Stein, in 1900 at the age of eleven. Stein

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attended public schools in Atchison and left school before the end of his eight grade. Stein was classified a self-educated electrical engineer. He became interested in electricity at the age of eight when he built his first battery from instructions he found in a magazine.

After a three year electrical apprenticeship, several jobs in Atchison and in Montana, Stein, at the age of twenty-one, opened an electrical contracting business in Atchison in 1909. In 1914 he developed the Galvolite, an electrical therapeutic device, which was sold throughout the United States and marketed through mail-order houses.

Stein's only lengthy absence from Atchison began in early 1919 when he served in the United States Navy during World War I. During his period of service he became interested in the wireless, and when he returned to Atchison, developed and manufacturing a crystal radio which, under the trade name Steinite, was his first major product. He soon began producing battery-operated sets, and was an early and effective competitor of Atwater-Kent. In 1926 he produced a virtual revolution in the radio industry when he developed the first radio to plug into a light socket and draw its power from home electric circuits. He had his set on the market a full year before any competitors. The sets produced a sensation when exhibited at Madison Square Garden in New York City. The basic idea for this use of alternating current was not a new one, but Mr. Stein triumphed over other manufactures by working literally "around the clock, day and night." He believed it illustrated the fact that a man works harder for himself than on behalf of a corporation which employs him. His factory was inundated with orders for the new radio; and although unable to meet the demand during his first year, he was producing seven hundred sets per day by the early part of 1927. Before the end of the 1920s he had eleven hundred person on his payroll and the net worth of his business was estimated at four million dollars. He lost heavily following the 1929 crash, but with his customary optimism, opened a new factory for the manufacture of automobile radios. One of the major reasons his business was finally forced to close was his refusal to lay off employees.

To regain his position in electrical manufacturing, Mr. Stein cultivated an idea he had developed in 1928 when he began testing the amount of moisture in the wood from constructed radio cabinets. There existed a demand for such equipment by other manufacturers, and in 1932 he formed the Fred Stein Laboratories, Inc., to produce the Steinlite Moisture Tester. Since the time of its invention, the tester has been used to test the moisture and oil in seeds, meats, grains, processed foods, chemicals, and cottonseeds. This tester endorsed by the United States Department of Agriculture was an immediate success and was exported globally. In the 1940s Stein produced a germinator to test the growing ability of seeds. A machine which ground cottonseed, peanuts, beans, and grain for oil extraction was put on the market in the 1950s.

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Mr. Stein was the president of the corporation he founded in the 1930s. His brother-in-law and long-time collaborator, Eugene A. Moore, was vice-president and general plant manager. Beginning in the late 1940s, Frederick W. Stein, Jr., served as assistant to the president. The Fred Stein Laboratories, Inc. known as The Steinlite Corporation is still operational and continues to produce and export the Steinlite Moisture Tester.

Stein's counsel was highly regarded in management circles, and he promoted industrial relations in Kansas. He was a popular speaker at industrial conferences and training clinics throughout the United States. The Atchison Globe wrote of him:

His command of the English language far outreaches that of most college graduates of his own or any other age group. He speaks before learned engineering societies in their own language, and he talks with equal fluency on the same subject before civic clubs, high school assemblies and other nontechnical audience, and they can see exactly what he is talking about. It is the gift that makes great teachers.

Elsewhere he has been cited as "a wizard at putting into simple language those highly complicated technical terms." He had an incredible knowledge and understanding of patent law as well.

In 1947 Mr. Stein was elected a city commissioner in Atchison. He was appointed mayor in 1949 and retained this post for four consecutive terms. His service in the city dates from 1911-1912, when he took part in providing the city's with its first modern electrical street lighting, and in 1947 when he aided in improving the city's water system. He was the president of the Atchison Chamber of Commerce for three years and president of the Kansas State Chamber of Commerce from 1948 to 1950.

Frederick W. Stein was active in the National Association of Manufacturers and a member of its Patent and Public Relations committees. He was a sponsor of the Thomas Edison Foundation, a member of the National Chemurgic Council, trustee of the Midwest Research Institute, and a trustee of the Menninger Foundation.

Stein was a prolific electronic inventor with keen business intellect and a strong sense of civic leadership. He promoted not only his products but also the city of Atchison, Kansas and the state of Kansas. His inventions continue to globally impact the agricultural industry today.

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Architecturally, the Frederick W. Stein House displays the exuberance of the Neo-Classical Style in its imposing appearance. The unadorned detailing is exemplified in the stucco wall surfaces throughout the exterior of the house, a key characteristic of the Neo-Classical Style. The unembellished attributes are essential qualities of the style, which incorporate conventional architectural precedents found in Greek and Roman architecture by emphasizing symmetrical plans with classic proportions. The cumulative effect is clean, straight lines which work to unite the structure visually. The style continues to be echoed by the vitality of the domineering one-story porch across the facade with the simple, yet prominent, wood columns. The windows are symmetrically arranged and enrich and enhance the balance the style demands. The elaborate and highly ornate front doors adheres to the Neo-Classical style as a tenet of respect to the time-honored fundamentals. Lastly, the Frederick W. Stein House succeeds in providing a perception of classic grandeur, as well as an appearance of strength and stability which predominate the essence of Neo-Classical Style. True to the style, the house is the most imposing and impressive structure in a several block radius.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

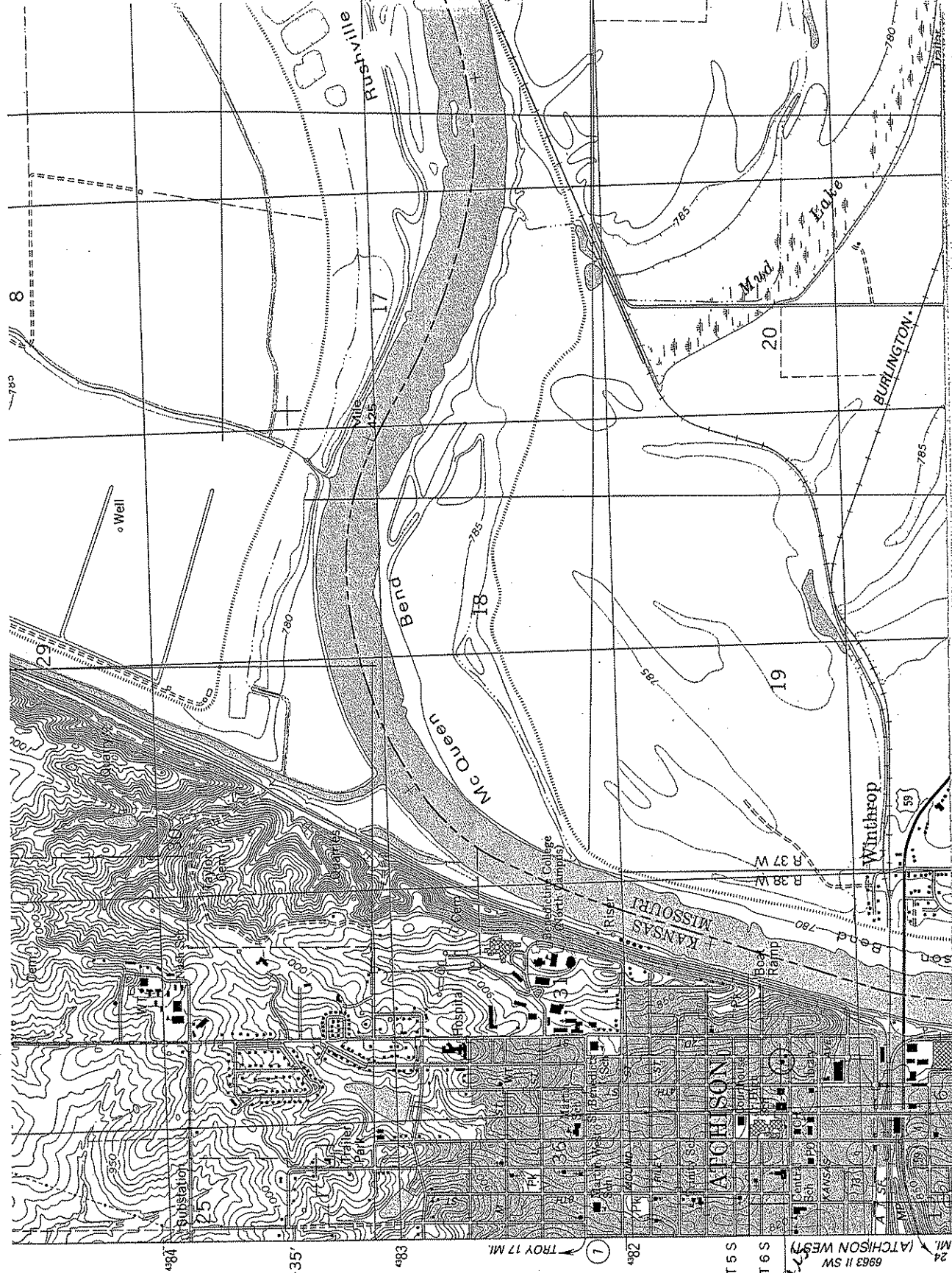
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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property stands on Lots Six and Seven (6 & 7); The North 100 feet of Lot Eight (8), Block Eight (8); the West 25 feet of the South 50 feet of lot Eight (8), Block (8); and the North 56 feet of lot Nine (9), Block Eight (8), in Old Atchison, an addition to the City of Atchison, Atchison County, KS. The property is bounded by Santa Fe to the north, 4th Street to the west, and adjacent property lines to the east and south.

Boundary Justification

The boundary contains all land historically associated with the nominated property.



Frederick Stern
 House
 Atchison, KS
 UTM Coordinates
 15 3/8 163
 4381325